

A RETROSPECT OF BROOKLYN

AND A LOOK AHEAD BASED ON THE LOOK BACKWARD.

How the Merit of Optimism Was Proved is Related by a Veteran Merchant—With Better Transit the Borough Will Be "AU CITY" to the City Line, He Says.

"Yes, things certainly have changed since I began my business career in Brooklyn—and they have changed for the better in every way," said Abraham Abraham, senior member of the firm of Abraham & Straus, yesterday. "Nevertheless, remarkable as have been the changes in this borough, rapidly as this section of the greater city has increased in population in recent years, I am satisfied that the development has only just begun and that the difference in the next ten years will be even more startling than the events of the past."

"It seems almost impossible for me to think that only a comparatively few years ago there were horse cars here, stages running, steam cars with a charge of 40 cents or more to Coney Island and a queer little dummy road going down to the country spots of Fort Hamilton and Bath Beach—and now there are electric cars overhead, on the ground and underneath the ground. How it would have seemed, started in fact, if in 1865 some prophet had foretold that there would be a day when we would have a beautiful entrance to our stores under the ground, beautiful above windows under the sidewalk! But there have been just as radical changes in other directions since the civil war in this big borough of ours."

"It was about the close of the war when my father, a New York man, advised me to begin my business career in Brooklyn. He always had great faith in the future of this borough. He induced me to enter the firm of Joseph Wechsler & Co., at 291 Fulton street, and I was the 'company.' That was the beginning of the present Abraham & Straus. We rented the entire building, four stories high, 25x30 feet, but used for our store only the main floor—subletting the others. I remember there was a photographer just above the store, and over him was a dentist who subsequently was shot while passing through City Park near the navy yard, and his murder created quite a stir."

"At that time the leading dry goods house was Journey & Burnham's, on Atlantic avenue near Henry street. The busiest and most important section of Fulton street was between Sands street and Myrtle avenue."

On the opposite corner was Brooklyn's fashionable furniture house, Brooks', considered a very fine furniture store at the time. Walter Lockwood's, a silk and dress goods store, was in the vicinity later, and in the St. Ann's Building, erected by the old church, was Morgan & Co.'s dry goods store, which did a very high class of business. Opposite that was Orvington's, the great china store, the same concern now on Fifth avenue in Manhattan. Then there was Dickinson & West's—and a man named Lewis ran a store, but was not distinguished when the Brooklyn Bridge opened and was so sure that all the business would thereafter be done in New York that he went out of business. I remember well how I told him that if he could not offer other inducements to keep the people of Brooklyn trading here, he might better retire anyway. Another man named Jones had quite a place."

"And then came the blocks running from Fulton street to Myrtle avenue that became the crowded business center of Brooklyn, so crowded that I well remember at times seeing the people walking half way out on the street. One of the comparatively big houses then was Loesser & Loessler's, now known as Frederick Loesser & Co. Horton Bros. in the same neighborhood was the next store in size and importance to Journey & Burnham. And right next to Horton's came our little store."

"It was a very little store for the neighborhood and with the few fellows each side of us many were the predictions that our existence was only a matter of a few months. But that's another story. There was a prominent leather house, Wood's, on the same block, and a store run by Buckley, who later moved to Connecticut. One of this latter firm became, I believe, Governor of that State."

"Matthew's at that time was on Myrtle avenue. Balch, Price & Co.'s store was quite far down, near Nassau street, I think, and Hart Bros. and Wise, both jewellers, were in the vicinity. How many of the names I have mentioned, so well known to us all at that time—many of the stores were family bywords at the close of the war—have entirely disappeared except from the memory of the elder merchants."

"We started at a very unfortunate period. The war had just ended, prices were high. I remember muslins were 65 to 70 cents—and we sold muslin just the other day for four cents. Just as we got well stocked—we only dealt in dry goods—the tumble in prices caused by the close of the war occurred. We had on our hands a stock considered pretty big in those days, purchased far above market price. But we hustled the merchandise. Time took its toll, and my mind because Lincoln was shot just then and I remember the thrill of horror that went through us all. Every one of the stores had memorial windows that were beautiful. We had a particularly effective one that was commented upon widely in the newspapers—one reason being that we had the only bust of Lincoln in existence, so far as I know. I had seen it in a barber shop and when the tragedy occurred I secured it at once. The pedestal was draped with white and black silk, with these quotations from Hamlet:

"O, treble woe fall ten times treble on that cursed head.
Those stained deeds thy most ingenious sense
Despised thee off!
Good night, sweet prince,
And flights of angels sing thee
To thy rest."

In spite of the fact that we purchased our goods on the rising market and had to sell them on the falling, our little store prospered and we added floor by floor, finally running through to Washington street by acquiring a building built by Gordon L. Ford, four stories high, 40x70 feet. This was considered a tremendous addition at that time, but would not be worth a paragraph to-day."

"In 1865 the assessed valuation of Brooklyn was \$106,470,308, and taking it for granted that this sum represents half the actual market value, we would have a total of \$212,940,616. Compare that with the \$1,274,088,457 of 1907. More than \$1,000,000,000 increase in assessed valuation of Brooklyn from 1865 to 1907 was a time of comparatively marked development in Brooklyn and the new buildings erected in 1867 amounted to 3,539, a great many for that city at the time. Last year 7,779 new buildings were completed, with a valuation of \$55,967,777."

Above Myrtle avenue on Fulton street in the neighborhood of the City Hall was given over to liquor saloons and cheap clothing houses, and beyond that, or further, the store of Abraham & Straus now stands, was a circus ground, originally a cemetery of the Dutch Reform Church. Wheeler, man far ahead of his time, put up a very fine, iron front building, known after him as the Wheeler Building, and a very prominent one indeed for those days. It was a very unfortunate enterprise for him. It was divided into small stores and rented out to a liquor saloon, a time museum and a second hand auction place, and the notorious Olympic Theatre was situated there. Beyond the Wheeler Building to Flatbush avenue might have been a mining town so far as appearances went."

"The great stores of the day, with the exception of Journey & Burnham and

"CAMMEYER"

STAMPED ON A SHOE
MEANS STANDARD OF MERIT.

The Newest Fashion Styles

In Women's Eyelet Ties,
Oxfords, Christy Ties,
Pumps and Slippers

In the New Fashion Leathers, Tans,
Suedes, Patent Leathers and Kids in
every size.

Our new "Garden" Tie is
our Original Design
and has met with
phenomenal success
and has been
adopted as the
Leading Model
this season.

The One, Two
and Three Eyelet
Ties with broad
ribbon negligee
bows are im-
mensely Popular and
Our Stock of them is
The Finest and Largest in the
City. All sizes in every leather and
in every color. We exhibit The Grandest variety of Spring
Low Shoes, showing all the latest Fashion Shapes and Di-
versity of Models, Leathers and shades in the finest materials
and workmanship.

Prices, \$3, \$3.50 and \$5

Imported Stockings in Silk, Lisle Thread and Cotton
to match or artistically contrast with all shoe and costume
shades.

The Most Satisfactory Selections of Shoes and
Stockings are Made in Our Store.

Spring Catalogue Mailed on Application.

ALFRED J. CAMMEYER, 6th Ave., Cor. 20th St.

others on Atlantic avenue, concentrated on the block between Tillary street and Myrtle avenue. Beyond that was very like the country. The building now occupied by Nutter was Mozart Gardens, and I remember hearing about a woman named Mary Anderson walking 10,000 miles there in a many quarter hours—and that was not a long ago either.

"We were beginning to grow very rapidly—taking in floors above—but we were so situated that we finally found that we were too big for space we had to occupy—like the boy who outgrows his trousers. Another store owned the buildings on each side of us and we could not secure them. One day I was walking up Fulton street and saw the Wheeler building, and it came to me like a flash that when the new bridge was opened that part of Fulton street could be made the center of Brooklyn. We had the late Mr. James, the real estate man, quietly negotiate for the Wheeler building, the owners coming together without knowing who wanted this big white elephant of a building.

"When the papers reported that it was Wechsler & Abraham and that they were going to move away from the business center of Brooklyn there was great surprise and no end of comment to the effect that we were making a serious error. Indeed, odd as it may seem this day, there were so many men that believed the limit of Brooklyn's business possibilities was the City Hall that even those few houses that were already established beyond that line sincerely advised me that they were endeavoring to get stores below Myrtle avenue and would move down if they could. The idea of opening a structure like the Wheeler building was considered by these men sheer folly.

"But the faith in the future of Brooklyn that always possessed me was justified by Brooklyn's growth, and from the first the venture that then was judged so amazing was an immense success. And since then we have trebled its size and more in addition. There was an attempt to keep the center of trade on lower Fulton street, but the tide had turned and one after another the other stores came up town. The stores that did not follow had gone out of business, as the whole character of the neighborhood has changed.

"It is a singular thing and a very suggestive fact that until the bridge came and we had the shopping center of Brooklyn clustered the bulk of the shopping was done in New York. Now it is the exception for a Brooklyn woman to shop in Manhattan. When we started in business in 1868 there was but one store in Brooklyn that sold silks—Journey & Burnham carrying black silks only. No one attempted to sell colored silks here. Women used to apologize for buying in Brooklyn. They would get their things and little things in the Brooklyn shops, with the explanatory remark that they wanted to be patriotic and help the home stores. Now they apologize when they buy in Manhattan.

"As for the future of Brooklyn, as I see it now with the first subway in use, it is as boundless as its magnificent territory and splendid situation, with the ocean and bays on two sides and the river on the other. The new subways and bridges completed I expect to see this borough extend to Jamaica and beyond, built up with comfortable homes, Jamaica Bay will be deepened and in the not so far future will be the port of entry for all foreign commerce—with a network of great docks and splendid warehouses—with a forest of factories and hundreds of homes for their employees. From just beyond the Queens line Long Island will be the summer resort of Greater New York! Inside the line that marks the greater city the improved transit facilities will build up a new metropolis that will leave London behind."

LIVELY INTEREST IN JOHNSON.
Members of Congress Request an Opportunity to Meet the Governor.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—That a lively interest is felt in the national capital in Gov. John A. Johnson of Minnesota, Bryan's leading opponent for the Democratic Presidential nomination, is shown by the fact that his Washington friends have been deluged by requests from members of Congress and prominent citizens here for an opportunity to meet the Minnesota man while he is in Washington on May 10. The occasion for his presence here is the meeting of the Governors of States as the guests of the President.

In response to the requests, his friends have announced that Gov. Johnson will not make his visit to Washington a political one in any sense of the word, and that, as he will be the guest of the President, he is not the kind of man to take advantage of the occasion to boost himself politically. There is small chance, therefore, that a public reception to allow persons to meet him will be held while he is here.

THEY SAY TAFT IS BEATEN

ANNOUNCEMENT IN BEHALF OF OTHER CANDIDATES.

It is to the Effect That the Opposition Will Control the Republican National Convention by More Than 100 Votes—Foraker Gets Ohio Delegates.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—Announcement is made to-night in behalf of other candidates for the Republican Presidential nomination that "it is now certain that the opposition to Secretary Taft will control the national convention by a majority of more than one hundred votes." The statement in which this announcement is made contains the following additional claims:

"The last week was the fourth in which Secretary Taft has lost ground in the proportion of delegates committed to his cause. On April 1 Secretary Taft had more than half the delegates then elected in his instructed column. On May 1 less than one-third were so classified.

"During the past week the report has been widely circulated in behalf of Secretary Taft's candidacy that the opposition to his nomination was disintegrating and several opposing candidates have been mentioned as about to withdraw from the race. It may be stated authoritatively that these statements, inasmuch as many others issued for the purpose of creating the belief that the nomination of Secretary Taft is assured, have no basis in fact.

"During the last week 145 delegates were elected. Of this number only forty-two were instructed for Secretary Taft, although only eight of these delegates were elected in so-called favorite son States. The regular delegates chosen this week in the Thirtieth Ohio district are for Senator Foraker. These, with two that have already been instructed for him and the delegates in three other districts which his friends control, will give him a total of ten votes in the State and prevent Secretary Taft from having a solid delegation in his home State.

"The Federal officeholders to control the selection of delegates were attended by fraud and violence, resulting in delegations contested almost in their entirety. In Mississippi delegates to the State convention, including the State chairman, were prevented from participating in the proceedings by armed men, although a large majority of the delegates regularly chosen were opposed to the programs of the officeholders. The regular delegation is for Senator Foraker.

"Of the 734 delegates elected up to this time 237 are instructed for Secretary Taft and 241 for the opposition. One hundred and forty are uninstructed and 110 contested. A large majority of the uninstructed delegates are committed to the opposition, as the plan of the Taft management has been to secure instructed delegates wherever possible, while that of the opposition has been to send uninstructed delegates from outside the so-called favorite son States. The plan of the Taft management has been to be the port of entry for all foreign commerce—with a network of great docks and splendid warehouses—with a forest of factories and hundreds of homes for their employees. From just beyond the Queens line Long Island will be the summer resort of Greater New York! Inside the line that marks the greater city the improved transit facilities will build up a new metropolis that will leave London behind."

SIX MORE TAFT STATES.
Secretary's Managers Cheered by the Progress of a Week.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 2.—It was announced at the Taft headquarters to-day that between yesterday and Friday of last week six State conventions had endorsed Secretary Taft for President; that out of 152 delegates chosen seven were instructed for him and that at least fifty of the sixty-eight uninstructed are known supporters of Taft. Fourteen were instructed for other candidates.

In all 744 delegates have now been elected. Of this number 350 have been instructed for Taft, 160 are uninstructed and 235 are instructed for other candidates. The seats of seventy-four delegates are contested.

Booming Harmon for Ohio Governor.
COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 2.—Anti-Johnson leaders to-night declared that they will nominate Judson Harmon for Governor. Harmon has been endorsed in some caucuses for the Presidency and it is thought that enough unpledged men can be brought into line to beat Atlas Pomeroy of Canton, Tom Johnson's candidate, in a gubernatorial fight.

Lord & Taylor

May Sale of

Muslin Underwear,
Silk Petticoats, Corsets
and Kimonos

Commencing Monday, May 4th

Night Gowns

98c., \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.95, \$2.45,
\$2.75, \$3.25, \$3.95 & \$4.75

Chemises 98c., \$1.25, \$1.95

Drawers

50c., 98c., \$1.25, \$1.75, \$2.25 to \$2.95

Corset Covers 50c., 75c., \$1.25

Skirts

98c., \$1.25, \$1.95, \$2.45 to \$5.95

Odd Fine Petticoats

lace or embroidery trimmed

(at greatly reduced prices.)

Silk Petticoat Dept.

Odd Silk Petticoats

in a large variety of styles in Black, Colored and
Fancy Striped Taffeta,
from \$5.00 to \$8.75

Wash Petticoats

in plain and striped Chambray with deep embroid-
ered ruffle

at \$2.95—value \$4.50

Kimonos and House Gowns

Kimonos

In Flowered Lawn \$1.75, \$1.95

In Flowered Swiss \$1.95, \$2.45

In Oriental Crêpe \$1.95

House Gowns

In Lawn, floral patterns \$1.95, \$2.25

In Lawn, with pink, blue, lavender, or
black and white stripe \$2.95

In Flowered Dotted Swiss \$3.25, 3.95, 4.50

Short Kimonos

In Flowered Lawn 75c., 98c., \$1.25

In White Lawn with flowered facing 98c

In White Lawn, trimmed with fine
embroidery \$1.95

In Silk Mull \$1.75

Dressing Suits

In Lawn, floral patterns or polka dot 98c

Corsets

In Fine Batiste

(attached supporters)

at \$1.25—value \$2.00

In Fine Batiste

medium high bust,
long hips and back,
real whalebone,
attached supporters,

at \$1.85, \$2.75—value \$4.50 to \$6.00

Broadway & 20th St.; 5th Ave.; 19th St.

HE'S AGAINST HUGHES.

Statement by the Democratic Nominee for Senator in the 47th.

NIAGARA FALLS, May 2.—Henry A. McMahon, Democratic nominee for Senator in the Forty-seventh Senate district, made public this statement to-day:

"I have been nominated by the Democratic party as its candidate for State Senator at the special election called to be held on May 12, 1908, and respectfully solicit your votes. So far as the members of the Democratic party are concerned, I expect the loyal support of its every man. A splendid opportunity to elect a Democrat over the candidate of a faction of the Republican party is presented, and no reason or issue exists which should induce any Democrat to vote for my opponent.

"I shall not receive the support of the members of the Hughes-Stevens faction of the Republican party, but I claim the right to the support of all other Republicans, Democrats and independent citizens. This special election is called for the purpose of bolstering up the Hughes-Stevens faction of the Republicans in this district. It can have no practical result on any legislation. The expense of many thousands of dollars caused to taxpayers by the special election is wholly unwarranted and unnecessary, except to further the political interests of the Hughes-Stevens faction. The special election is a part of a cunningly devised plan to assist the maldistributed and mismanaged administration of the Erie Canal in this district to tighten its grip on the Republican organization."

"My nomination is not the result of any unmanly bargain or ridiculous self-stultification. Can my opponent say the same of his? I am in favor of the equal and complete enforcement of the Constitution in every part. I am not in favor of overriding the Constitution in any respect and am not in favor of unconstitutional laws."

because a mathematical calculation of its possible personal and political benefits may show a balance in my favor.

"Gov. Hughes cannot say as much, as he has openly advocated laws, notably the recent bill, which he knew as a lawyer contained unconstitutional provisions, because of its probable benefits to his personal political fortunes. Nothing I could say to you will procure any speeches by Gov. Hughes or votes from his factionists in my favor. If elected I shall do my duty man and not as any one's puppet."

Asked pointedly as to whether or not he intended if elected to support Gov. Hughes's policy with regard to the racing bill Mr. McMahon replied:

"I have nothing more to say one way or other than I have said in my statement."

ODELL GOES TO CHICAGO.

The Convention Didn't Indorse Either Roosevelt or Hughes.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., May 2.—The Republicans of the Twentieth Congress district, comprising the counties of Orange, Sullivan and Rockland, met in this city this afternoon and selected Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., and Congressman Thomas W. Bradley as delegates to the national convention at Chicago. James Kilby of Rockland and Frank S. Anderson of Sullivan are the alternates. It is understood that there was a warm fight in the committee on resolutions in regard to indorsing President Roosevelt and Gov. Hughes and the work of the convention was delayed two hours by the wrangle. The result was that the only person indorsed was Congressman Thomas W. Bradley. The delegates were not instructed.

Indianapolis Man Named for Congress.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 2.—Charles A. Korbly of Indianapolis was nominated for Congress by the Democrats of the Seventh district this afternoon.

Lord & Taylor

Odd Lots of

Table Cloths and Napkins

at an average of 1/2 price to close.

Table Cloths, \$1.50 to 17.50,

formerly \$3.00 to 35.00.

Napkins, 2.00 to 15.00,

formerly \$3.00 to 30.00

ALSO—

200 doz. H. S. Huck Towels, \$3.00 doz.,
regular \$4.25 quality.

100 doz. H. S. Huck Towels, 3.75 doz.,
regular \$6.00 quality.

75 doz. H. S. Huck Towels, 6.00 doz.,
regular \$10.50 quality.

Linen Sheets and Pillow Cases

at reductions of 1/3 less than regular prices.

Lace-trimmed Linen Tea Cloths, Scarfs, Centrepieces,
at great reductions to close.

LOT OF JAPANESE HAND DRAWN-WORK,
Squares and Tray Cloths,
50c. each, worth \$1.00 & 1.50.

Summer Blankets,

Bed Spreads, Comfortables,

Muslin Sheets and Pillow Cases

at greatly reduced prices.

Summer Blankets,

\$1.65, 3.25 & 4.50 pr.,

regular \$2.25, 4.25, 5.75

qualities.

Also 175 prs.

Medium Weight

Blankets,

\$4.75 pr.,

regular \$6.50 quality.

Silkoline Covered Comfortables.

95c., \$1.75 and 2.90.

regular \$1.25, 2.25 & 4.25 grades.

Bed Spreads 95c., \$1.35 and 2.25

regular \$1.25, 1.75 & 3.25 grades.

Muslin Sheets and Pillow Cases

Sheets

Pillow Cases

54x 90	.55	42x38 1/2	.16
63x 90	.63	45x38 1/2	.17
72x 90	.69	50x38 1/2	.21
81x 90	.75	54x38 1/2	.23
90x 90	.82		
90x108	.93		

Broadway and 20th St.; 5th Ave.; 19th St.

Lord & Taylor

Special Sale Rug Department

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday,

May 4th, 5th and 6th,

we will offer and invoice

at less than wholesale prices,

comprising

325 Extra Heavy Pile Seamless

Scotch Axminster Rugs

in 9x12 size only

at \$27.50

The above value is unprecedented.

Oriental Rugs

A special lot containing

1,235 Rugs

including Kazakjas, Daghestans, Kurdistans, Cab-
istans, Kazaks, etc.,

at \$8.50 to \$45.00

Kermanshah, Sarouk, Serapi, Bijar, Mahal, etc.,
in Carpet sizes will be offered at

a saving of 25% to 40%

Broadway & 20th St.; 5th Ave.; 19th St.

ART SALES AND EXHIBITIONS.

ART SALES AND EXHIBITIONS.

"A rare opportunity to gather many beautiful and useful specimens,
which are not only advancing to prohibitive prices in Europe, but are
becoming extremely scarce."

ON FREE VIEW FROM TO-MORROW (MONDAY)

In the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries

540 5TH AVE. (5th St.) Mr. James P. Nils, Auctioneer.

At Absolutely Unrestricted Public Sale

The Magnificent Collection of

Antique Brocades,

Velvets and Rare Embroideries

at the order of

K. J. COLLINS

to Dispose of a Special Importation.

Sales at Three o'Clock P. M.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Next), May 7, 8 and 9.